

36/ The first essential condition is a nearby source of drinking water,  
3/2 a stream, a marsh, or one or more natural springs. These springs  
are quite numerous in the region we visited. Their water is clear,  
limpid, and refreshing; the supply is abundant and regular in the  
dry season as well as in the rainy season. The natives value their  
[42] benefits so highly that the women willingly go 200 or 300 meters  
to a spring in the forest rather than to draw water from the stream.

36/ [35] In addition to a bountiful spring, the native seeks a health-  
ful location and takes this into account when choosing the future site  
for his household. The ground that suits him best is slightly raised,  
dry, open, and located near the forest or in the midst of a fertile  
plain.

Aside from their hygienic benefits, such locations afford a meas-  
ure of security to the settler. At the slightest alarm, the whole  
community leaves both village and home to run into the forest,  
where they are sheltered and completely safe.

Finally, the native looks for the fertile soil essential to the  
welfare of his crops. The well-being and even the existence of  
his whole family depend in large measure on the yields from these  
crops.

The new site then, must fulfill all these indispensable conditions.  
If the place that meets these requirements is to be found in a region  
full of game and not far distant from a stream, marsh, or water-  
course rich in fish, the native will not fail to choose such a privi-  
leged spot. These conditions will determine the duration of the  
native's settlement. [Ed., a passage is omitted here.]

36/ When the community has decided to move and a location suitable  
3B for a new settlement has been found, all the adult males leave to  
prepare the ground. This work is particularly arduous in forested  
areas. In the grasslands it is sufficient to cut the grass, or simply  
to burn it, and then to hoe thoroughly the area for the new village  
and its fields and to carry off all the rubbish, while the establish-  
ment of a village in the heart of the forest requires far greater effort  
and work. The first few days are devoted to marking out the  
boundaries and clearing the small trees, creepers, bushes, grass,  
etc. Everything that can be cut with a knife or ax is hacked down.  
Large tree trunks are chinked at the base; then the native heaps  
all the rubbish [36] from the first stage of clearing around them and

264  
[45] spherical calotte, and also wooden plates. Sometimes also simple leaves are used as plates, unless the food is served in the cooking pots.

The whole meal is spread on the ground. [144]

The man squats on his mat and dips leisurely in the dishes with his hand, moving from one to another according to his taste.

[52] The meal is always eaten in silence. Even when several friends eat together, they never talk during the meal.

After the meal the natives carefully wash their hands and teeth and rinse out their mouths several times.

### Beverages

271  
415 Water is the only beverage they drink at mealtime, and they use it quite rarely. If they do not have a wooden or earthenware cup, they use part of a calabash or simply a leaf rolled into a little cone.



Fig. 83. Water Carrier.

312  
462  
857  
482 Water usually comes from a spring near the village. The natives use river water only when it is quite clear. The women and children have the task of fetching water, a chore which is often quite hard. I visited many villages located along or near the river, whose source of drinking water was 20 to 30 minutes away.

At certain hours of the day and more especially in the morning as the sun first comes

up, the women and children set out, a calabash or water jug balanced on their heads, to fetch the supply for the day.

271  
415 Water is kept in large calabashes or earthenware jugs, sheltered from the sun in a corner of the hut.